

PARK & RECREATION MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2009
6:15 P.M.

Call to Order: The Parks & Recreation board met on the above date and time in the Council Chambers, 270 W. 15th Street. President Denny Corn called the meeting to order. Members present were Anna Karen Pennington, Liz Crain, Tim Shuppert and Tim Yazel. Jan Voiles was absent. Also present was Parks Director Danny Mathews, Secretary Carla Sharpe, City Councilman Mike Buckley, Richard Malcom, Teresa Alexander, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Beeler, Pam Bradley and Jason Jessup.

Minutes: Minutes of June 9, 2009 was presented for approval. Shuppert moved to approve June 9th minutes. Crain seconded. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

Reports: Mathews reported with the board that on Saturday, August 1st he will be hosting a concert at the Amphitheater. The concert will be from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and the groups involved are: The Tribu-Terrys, which is a 60's band. Southbound which is a country band and a band from Richmond that has 5 women that sing. One of the women will sing "These Boots Are Made for Walking" and dress the part. Mathews is excited to have the Tribu-Terrys back after all these years. This concert will be no cost to the city. Everyone is donating their services. Sharpe has one vendor lined up and possibly two for that evening. Mathews will get posters out but he is looking for an Emcee if anyone is interested.

Reported Duke Energy took a tree out of the lines in the park.
Ed Dickson has volunteered to carve a lions head in the stump.
Dickson is very fantastic to the Parks Department and helps make our parks look nice.

Reported he has planted 10 new trees along Park Blvd. Next year he hopes to plant another 10 as last year we lost so many trees.
These are fast growing Maple trees.
Dick Malcom came up with the suggestion of the Lions Head.

Reported the basketball court is done and is a great thing.

Claims: Pennington and Crain reviewed the claims prior to the meeting. Crain moved to approve claims for the month. Pennington seconded. Motion carried. Claims approved.

Unfinished Business:

Pool Manager Anita Carfield – Pool Report – Sharpe read the following report in Carfields absence: Since the June 8th meeting, 33 days have passed. We have been closed 4 days due to weather and have had an average of 153 patrons 29 out of the last 33 days and closed early 5 of those 29 days due to weather. Our concession intake since the last meeting is \$5,712.37. This is an average of \$173.10 per day. Our total admission intake since last meeting is \$9,546.00. This is an average of \$340.00 per day. We have sold 8 child passes, 1 adult pass, 54 family passes and 1 group pass this season. Summer School P.E. used the facility the weeks of June 15 and June 22. We gave morning swim lessons the weeks of June 29 and July 5. We had 32 participants during those 2 weeks. We had 4 pool parties in June and 2 so far in July. We have 16 more scheduled before the end of the season. Raymond Gibson Day, free admission day, will be Sunday, July 19, from 1-6 p.m. We will close for the season on Sunday, August 15 at 4:00 p.m.

Amphitheater Concert Series Update – Sharpe stated the Blues concert was last weekend and went well considering the weather. It rained all day. Stopped raining at 5:00, sun came out at 6:00 and concert was at 7:00. Low attendance compared to other concerts. The next concert is July 25th and will be Zanna Do which is a disco, rock band. She has people up dancing. Sharpe said earlier that Pennington had said the class reunions could not have alcohol and asked for clarification. Sharpe said she rented out the Amphitheater and the class reunion scheduled for this weekend is under the understanding that they can have alcohol. Pennington said "No". Sharpe said you mean others can drink but the class reunion people cannot? Sharpe said she is going to have a lot of people mad at her. Pennington then said they can purchase beer from beer garden as long as the concert is going on but once the concert is over the beer garden closes. Sharpe said she was under the impression that the class reunions can stay at park until midnight. We discussed this at a meeting. Pennington said yes that's right but that the beer garden closes when the concert is over. Sharpe will check previous minutes. Yazel stated he seen the Amphitheater minutes and it had said that Newhouse and Newhouse will do the 501-C3. Yazel asked if we were going to pay them.

Sharpe said she thought that they were volunteering to do this.
Yazel then questioned what a 501-C3 meant. Sharpe said it would mean the Amphitheater would be autonomous from the City. Such as the Boys and Girls Club is autonomous from the City.
For instance the City funds the Boy's and Girls Club but they are its own entity.
For instance the Park Restaurant pays a \$1.00 to the City once a year.
Buckley said if the City is to fund the Amphitheater then he has a problem with having alcohol in the park. He suggested that the lease would say "no alcohol in the park".
Crain said that so many people ask "why do we allow alcohol in the park."
Sharpe explained that Riverside Park is an entertainment/musical venue. The group gets the proper licenses and permits to allow this.
Yazel questioned how this would take place once the Amphitheater becomes autonomous.
Sharpe said she does not have all the answers and suggested the Parks Board talk to Amphitheater Chairman Mike Pavey.
Corn said he will invite Pavey to the next Parks Board meeting.

Dick Malcom thanked Mathews and the Parks Board for the 10 new Hard Maple trees.

Councilman Buckley stated that he witnessed two bicycles almost hit two ladies at Veterans Memorial Park and said something has to be done about this.
He said the kids are riding bikes in the sunken garden and running up on the trail and in the path of walkers.
Buckley suggested putting something up to keep bikes from having mishaps.
Corn suggested fences or bushes.
Mathews stated he has told the kids to stay off the bike trail or the bike trail will be taken away from them.
Pennington said to put a time limit on it or take it away.
Mathews said we will have to fill it in. As long as it is a sunken garden they will use it.
Shuppert said they need a different place to go and suggested the Riverbend Park.
Mathews said he is afraid of destruction there.
Pennington stated we have to put a little bit of teeth into this.
Mathews said last week they ripped the bench off of a table in the shelter.
We can't keep paint on the tables. Kids climb on them and even up in the rafters.
Mathews said he took the picnic tables out of the shelter at this time. If someone wants to have a picnic he will return the table but until then he has removed the tables.
Pennington asked if that is caught on the cameras.
Mathews said there are no cameras in that area.
Crain suggested having the Police patrol more in that area.
Mathews said today he seen 5 kids smoking cigarettes ages 12-14.
Police need to start citing these kids.
Mathews said all he can do is report it.
There is to be no smoking on any government facility.
Mathews said he is not criticizing the Police department. They have a lot of work to do.
Mathews said he does not know what the answer is.
Yazel asked if there was any money for Reserve Officers to police the park?
Mathews said he has no money.
Yazel said we need some security.
Visual has a bigger impact.
Shuppert suggested come up with a plan or something to present to the powers that be.
Corn said he will have the Mayor check with the Police Department.
Shuppert said we need to make rules for the Parks and enforce them.
Crain said parents need to understand their kids are doing destruction.

New Business:

Theresa Alexander – St. Mary's Community Festival Request – Mrs. Alexander stated she was the Chairman of this years St. Mary's Community Fall Festival and she was present to request the use of the Amphitheater and permission to have a beer garden. They have the liquor license and licensed bartenders.
They will be having a hog roast and D.J. on Saturday night with a beer garden. They will not advertise this.
Crain stated she thought we had said as a group "no beer".
Shuppert said he sees no problem with this as they have a professional license.
Yazel asked how long the beer garden would be open. Alexander said Saturday evening during the hog roast and Sunday afternoon. They will be open on Sunday only if have business.
Shuppert asked if they could have an auxiliary officer just in case. Alexander said sure but they have never had an issue and this has been happening for several years now.
Corn said we have a real issue with beer. The Amphitheater is on a trial basis until the fall.
Pennington said she is right in the middle here. She is on the Parks Board and a church member and also on the Parish Council but she has something to say.

No alcohol for class reunions and it would be hard for her to say yes to alcohol for this function.
Pennington asked if they would consider not having a beer garden.
Alexander said years ago there was no beer garden when it was held at the church. When it was moved to the fairgrounds alcohol was allowed. They don't make a whole lot of money.
Alexander said when St. Mary's and Rush Fest merged Rush Fest used to do the beer. They decided to take it over and make a whole weekend of it.
Pennington again said we already have an issue with beer and to everyone else the answer is "no".
Corn said wait until the fall. We have had no instances at the Amphitheater but will revisit the issue then.
Shuppert made a motion to allow St. Mary's to use the Amphitheater with a beer garden. Motion died for a lack of a second.
Yazel moved to allow St. Mary's to use the Amphitheater with no alcohol. Crain seconded. Motion carried.

Steve Bradley – Adopt Willkie Park – Jason Jessup was present in Steve's place to offer the Legion's services. They are trying to get the Legion up and running again and they want to help the community. They are willing to offer time and volunteers to keep up Willkie Park. They will plant flowers, paint benches and pick up trash.
Shuppert asked Jessup to get with Parks Director Mathews and work this out.
The group stated they appreciated this.

Approval to Sponsor Annual Horseshoe Tournament – Mathews stated the Bob Sheppard Annual Horseshoe Tournament is coming up. This is the 6th or 7th year. He asked the board to sponsor \$500.00 for prize money. They have 10 winners and are a good bunch of people.
Mathews was always fond of Bob Sheppard and he would like to continue this in his honor.
Mathews said there is money available in his budget under Special Events.
Shuppert moved to approve \$500.00 in sponsorship for the Bob Sheppard Horseshoe Tournament. Yazel seconded. Motion carried.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

DENNY CORN, PRESIDENT

TIM SHUPPERT, VICE PRESIDENT

TIM YAZEL, MEMBER

JAN VOILES, MEMBER

ANNA KAREN PENNINGTON, MEMBER

LIZ CRAIN, MEMBER

ATTEST:

CARLA SHARPE, SECRETARY